# THE ARGUS.

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## Rock Island—From River to River.

Let us at least be thankful that we do not all have to pour hot tar filler on brick paving these sunny days.

Perhaps, if it were to be done over again, Davenport would not be so anxious to get Rock Island back into the Three-Eye league.

Not all the heroes are on the battlefield. Just consider the plight of the weather man in case he fails to deliver the cool wave he says is on the way.

New York courts have ruled that wire tapping is proper and legal when done by the police. But then police can do a number of things that would not be strictly ethical for the rest of us.

Regardless of our political leanings we will all unite in the hope that the committee will have the good sense, in view of the heat and everything, to break it gently to Candidate Hughes tonight.

A scientist has discovered, he says, that sqeezing a hard substance with the fingers will cure hay fever. This has certain advantages over the usual method of treatment involving a letting go of said hard substance.

Tobacco users say the lighting of a pipe, cigar or cigaret helps to relieve the strain of mental labor and therefore reduces the pressure of modern high pressure living. Occasional and judicial use of the fly swatter serves the same purpose.

Actual cost of conducting the war is estimated at more than fifty billions of dollars and the property damage and loss in the industries is placed at an even higher figure. Perhaps after all there is some grounds for blaming the war for the high cost of some things we Americans have to buy.

It will be unfortunate if the courts take it upon themselves to reverse the laws made by the people themselves, as it seems there is a disposition to do in the deep waterway matter. The public is more or less reconciled to the usurpation of power that has overruled legislatures and the congress of the United States, but when the courts attempt to interfere with the public will as expressed at an election they are likely to arouse a sentiment which will demand a return to the separation of legislative and judicial powers in the manner that our forefathers contemplated when they framed this government.

## AS TEMPS SEES US.

An analyzation of the political situation in the United States, with a view to the war condition in Europe, is printed in a recent issue of the Paris Temps. It says:

"We cannot, of course, understand how anybody in the world can have one sole thought beyond our cataclysm. Yet across the water America pursues her way as though nothing were happening. Happy land! This day-terror and nightmare that besets us has left the American politician serene. We had hoped that at least there would be some enthusiastic outburst at the Chicago convention; and we had hoped, let us admit it, that sympathy across the ocean would crystalize in a standing vote for Mr. Roosevelt, who had so openly espoused our cause. But not one word, not one breath disturbed the political machine, which went its way along the paths of peace as though nothing had happened, nothing were happening."

The paper surmises that Mr. Wilson is sincere in his friendship for all the European nations, and that he does not exclude even the meanest of the allies. It adds:

"After all, we have no right to quarrel, if Mr. Wilson sees America first and always and last; and tries to keep her out of trouble; though, of course we would have felt more comfortable with an ouspoken friend at the head of the greatest nation on earth. Mr. Hughes is a man of quiet judicial ways; and his Germanophile propensities are, no doubt, overrated. So we are where we were; no better, no worse. We have faith in President Wilson's impartiality; we have faith in ex-Justice Hughes' fairness. But we have gained no outspoken friend at court. Probably America is strictly right; probably our hopes were wrong. We do not, cannot understand, for we are in the fray. And, after all, what is it that we demand, if not strict impartiality; strict fairness? That we shall get at the hands of America no matter which way politics will waft her."

## IN FOREIGN TRADE.

It may be of some significance that the annual reports of American industrial corporation for 1915, now appearing in considerable numbers, contain frequent references to the foreign business experiences of the year.

The American Woolen company has this interesting comment on its new foreign activities:

"A valuable export trade developed in 1915, particularly to Canada and South America, which, because of the war, could no longer procure their accustomed supply of fabrics from Europe. It has been the policy of the company to cover these foreign markets, first by engaging men with a thorough knowledge of the peculiar requirements of the market in question, and then by sending men trained in the company's service to cooperate in the development of each market as soon as it was demonstrated that business could be done. The future of this export trade as a whole cannot yet be determined, but in any event the company is now in possession of important knowledge as to the fabrics required and also as to the best method of conducting the business. This new trade is being sedulously followed and every effort will be made to retain as much of it as possible after the war has ended."

The United States Rubber company, which is a typical example of the American corporation making an intelligent campaign for permanent foreign trade says:

"As stated in the report of last year, our export business has been largely consolidated under one organization and is being satisfactorily expanded under the management of an able man in charge thereof. Our export business the past year has been approximately five per cent of our entire business. (Net sales of $92,861,015.98 were reported, making the foreign business approximately $4,643,000.—Ed.)"

The report of the International Harvester company, whose activities in foreign commerce are important on both the export and the import sides, gives the stockholder a bit of the real atmosphere of business outside the sheltering pale of this country's antitrust laws:

"The difficulties incidental to export trade have materially curtailed the volume of foreign shipments, and the consequent reduction in output made it necessary to operate the plants with smaller forces and on shorter time.

"During the early part of 1915 considerable difficulty was encountered in securing a supply of sisal for the manufacture of binder twine, on account of revolutionary disturbances in the state of Yucatan. In September and October last, the Comission Reguladora del Marcado de Henequent (regulating committees of the sisal market) an official body of the state of Yucatan, with offices in the cities of New York and New Orleans, having secured the complete control of the open market for sisal that had before existed in Yucatan and the United States. This monopoly has since exacted higher prices for sisal, and thereby caused the cost of binder twine to the American farmer to be correspondingly raised."

The International Paper company has for some years done an extensive foreign business. It says of last year's experiences:

"Throughout the year, there has been serious interference with our foreign business, and the extension of business to new foreign markets has been prevented by the shortage of ships, the exceedingly high rates of freight, and the impossibility of securing space at any price."

In the report of the Lackawanna Steel company the stockholders get a glimpse of the well-considered policy for which big business is going into foreign trade increasingly; that of using the foreign market as a means of steadying the demand for its products:

"The volume of domestic business gradually increased during the first half of the year, with moderate increase in prices; and the last half showed a gain in volume of orders and prices for both domestic and export business that enables your works, especially during the last quarter, to run at maximum capacity and large profits, the year closing with the greatest volume of orders on hand and at the highest prices in your company's history."

## THE POWER OF FAITH.

The British Medical Journal says that a patient who believes that nothing can save him helps to seal his own doom.

That is to say, all the skill and experience of the physician are of little avail unless they are augmented by the faith of the patient.

The popularity of the various forms of faith-healing seems to attest that there is much in it.

The body is the slave of the mind. To imgaine yourself ill is actually to be ill. To will yourself well is often to become well.

It has now been made an open question whether the presence and the drugs of the physician are not of importance primarily because they excite faith.

It is a curious paradox that truth dwells only in compromise.

Desire to attain certain qualities of character will lead, if the desire is strong enough, to their attainment.

One is vitally what one aspires to be.

The power of aspiration and the power of faith do not act as directly on the body as they do on the character. They are hampered by grosser conditions and limitations. But, nevertheless, their power is great. There are innumerable examples of the sickly man, actuated by a keen ambition to be strong, becoming almost miraculously robust—healed by faith in the feasibility of his throwing off his ills.

The biblical invitation to the physician to heal himself is nowadays often addressed to the patient.

Be wise and temperate, learn the benefits of fresh air and exercise, and believe that there is nothing much the matter, and you will be well, during most of your days, at any rate.

Faith may remove mountains. Certainly then it can remove the woes of the hypochondriac and the jumpy neurotic.

### Brave Telephone Girls.

London.—Telephone girls' bravery during Zeppelin raids and the Irish rebellion which they helped to quell featured the annual report of the postoffice department in conjunction with which the telephone system in this country is operated by the government. "When the Zeppelin raids have been anticipated, sometimes when they have been going on," says the report, "the women have come out of their homes to their work—even when bombs were dropping. They have played an important part in the scheme of air-raid warnings and have set a very good example to the whole country. "In Dublin, when the bullets were flying and the fires were raging, the women stuck to their work in the exchange, and it was due to them that communication was kept up and that we were able to obtain the military forces which suppressed the rebellion." More than 25,000 women have replaced men in postions in the postoffice department and telephone system, the report further shows. Out of 90,000 men of military age in these departments, 56,000 have joined the colors and 21,700 others have attested and only await the call to arms.

# Selected by Tavenner

### HOLD FAST TO REAL PATRIOTISM!

(By United States Senator Robert M. LaFollette.)

The sober, non-jingo people of this republic will generally agree that we would only be justified in engaging in war when necessary to defend substantial and indisputable rights, preserve our liberty, or repel invasion. Wars of conquest or aggression may accord with a policy of imperialism, but they have no place in the fulfillment of the destiny of a democracy.

We have a republican form of government. Our libery is not threatened by a foreign foe. In crucial times in our nation's history, the American people have not failed. The Revolutionary war was fought by volunteers. It did not take long for the enlisted men of the Civil war to become veterans.

Lack of readiness is not our peril. Our immediate danger lies in the possibility that we may be swept from our moorings by the tide of sentiment that, under the guise of patriotism, is actually based on commercial greed.

Frederic C. Howe in his very able work "Why War?" points out that foreign loans and investments have been the prime cause of war for the past 30 years. When capital has exploited its home country, when its profits have become so great as to depress interest rates, then it goes abroad for investment into countries whose resources have not yet been exploited, where the demand for capital is strongest and interest rates are very high.

The weaker nations, the smaller countries, the unexplored and unexploited countries, offer the most tempting opportunities and the largest profits.

But in such countries the governments are weak, investments insecure: hence capital has invented the new doctrine that the "flag follows business" and that the country must defend the financial interests of its citizens abroad. This is capital's new test of 'patriotism." This doctrine, which originated in England and spread over Europe, was adopted as a policy in this country under the last two republican administrations when the sordid influence of "dollar diplomacy" ruled in the state department. It has involved us in trouble with Hayti. It has discredited us in Guatemala. It is back of the demands for intervention in Mexico. It is a prostitution of patriotism that would tax the people of a nation hundreds of millions of dollars and send our soldiers to sacrifice their lives for the purpose of insuring exorbitant profits for speculators in foreign investments and foreign loans.

Are not the same impelling motives back of the money power today?

When great loans and investments and munition profits are dependent on the outcome of the European war, is it not inevitable that the Morgan interests, in combination with the munition traders, will employ every agency at their command to create war scares and build sentiment for a big army and a big navy which will extend their markets and protect their loans and investments?

It is likewise inevitable that these powerful forces should decry all propositions for peace and seek to undermine the substance and pervert the spirit of our neutrality.

When so much of the world has gone war mad the first patriotic duty of this nation is to preserve our impartiality; hold fast to our friendships. Our neutrality is a contribution of tremendous value to the world's future. If we pass through this crisis without becoming embroiled, without exhausting our vitality and resources, we shall have rendered a great and lasting service. We shall have demonstrated that national security is not dependent on military superiority, that the European system of rival armaments for preserving peace is a delusion. We shall have made it clear to all mankind that imperialism is a menace and that democracy stands for peace.

And above all, let us maintain a true doctrine of patriotism.

Let us protest against the cowardly doctrine of capital that it is the office of government to guarantee the investments of individuals or syndicates in foreign countries!

Let us insist that the army and navy under our flag shall not be degraded to the mean service of doing police duty for financial speculators who would rob and despoil the weaker nations of the world!

# THE MYSTERIOUS FOE.

**A Series of Stories About Some Illinois Men, Women and Children. Issued by the Illinois State Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis**

### FIFTH EPISODE.

Life has taken a peculiar slant to Irvin ——.

The future doesn't look so rosy as it did a few months ago. But the present has become wonderfully precious.

About three years ago, Irvin entered college. He was chuck full of the commodity called "pep." His life in grade and high schools had been that of the typical American boy.

He was ambitious. He wanted to "make his mark in the world" and to further prepare himself for the job, he felt that he needed a college education.

But Irvin's parents were poor and could promise him very little assistance. So, with a cheerful grin, he buckled to the task of paying his way through the state university.

In his freshman year, he played one of the tackle positions on his class eleven. The following year he was a first "sub" on the 'varsity.

He was popular with his classmates and was elected to one of the most exclusive "frats." He was passably good looking and could have taken a prominent part in the social life of the university but he had work to do and declined practically all of the invitations. You mustn't draw from this, though, that Irvin was a "goody, goody" boy. He wasn't. But he was as clean, and healthy and happy and talented as you would want your boy to be.

While he was playing "varsity sub" Irvin confidently expected to make the first team in his third year. But it puzzled him to find that he couldn't get in condition.

Something had gone wrong with his wind and his muscles refused to "stand the gaff" of the early training season.

He began to lose weight and to find that his brain didn't work as smoothly as it used to.

Then he learned that he had become infected with tuberculosis and that he had "got" the disease from somebody else who had it.

Someone who had tuberculosis, had coughed or sneezed or spit where the germs could be carried to Irvin's lungs. Probably whoever it was didn't realize what a criminally careless thing it was to do, but they did it anyway.

Sanatorium treatment might save Irvin but his funds are low and he can't afford to pay for treatment in a private institution.

## MRS. SMITH'S SON

Mrs. Henry Smith of Winamac, Ind., wrote a letter to President Wilson complaining of the hardships her son was compelled to undergo as a member of the national guard on duty in Texas.

The president, in his reply, has explained to her that the national guard is at the border "not for the purpose of drill, but for the purpose of protecting the country," and that he "cannot believe that the men of the national guard would wish to be excused from it, or would lose heart because of the discomforts and inconvenience of the service."

If Mrs. Smith were a wise woman she would not be writing to the president bewailing the trifling hardships to which her son is obliged to submit as a member of the national guard. She would be down on her knees thanking God that the president is exerting every honorable effort to bring about a peaceful solution of the difficulties with Mexico, and that her boy is not already out on the firing line with the boys of 400,000 other American mothers.

The hardships to which the national guard is subjected on the Texas frontier are about equal to the hardships of an ordinarily strenuous vacation in the Maine or the Minnesota woods; but war is serious business. When Mrs. Smith thinks about the petty inconveniences to which her son is subjected, let her think also of the millions of boys in Europe who are in the trenches and who are dying daily by the thousand in the midst of the most ghastly warfare known to human history.

Let her think of the millions of boys on the field with arms blown off, or legs blown off, or faces blown off, perishing in horrible agony for the lack of medical assistance which cannot reach them.

Let her think of the millions of boys in Europe who after this war is over will be crippled for life or with health shattered doomed to eke oue a wretched existence as hopeless invalids.

Let her think of the millions of mothers who are not worrying because their boys have to eat army rations, but who are worried day and night lest they will never see their boys again alive.

Let her try to visualize the hourly terrors of a war in which 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 men have already been killed or wounded—most of them boys like her boy.

Then let her remember that except for the statesmanship of Woodrow Wilson the body of her own son might be lying today in an unmarked grave in Flanders or France.

Mrs. Smith, with true material solicitude, naturally thinks it is a great nuisance that her boy should have to swelter in the heat of a Texas summer and live off coarse food, and so it is, but the troubles of her son are very small in comparison with what they would be if the United States had undertaken armed intervention in Mexico. Her own troubles, too, are very small in comparison with what they would be if she were watching the newspapers every day for the lists of dead and wounded in the fighting.

There are millions of Mrs. Smiths in this country with boys who would be subject to military duty if the United States went to war. When they are disposed to find fault with the policies of the president, let them devote a little prayerful consideration to the millions of Mrs. Smiths in Europe whose boys are now only memories. But for President Wilson these American mothers would be drinking the bitter dregs of that same cup.

### Fifty Warships for Australia.

London.—Australia is working out a policy which by 1933 will give her a fleet of 50 vessels, eight of them predreadnoughts, and involving an annual naval expenditure of at least $25,000,000, a member of an Australian commission, P. M. Glynn, stated on a recent visit to England.

## A STATE ALMSHOUSE.

The following account by Miss Annie Hinrichsen, inspector of institutions for the state charities commission, of her visit to a southern Illinois almhouse is offered to the public as a bit of rare descriptive literature. It gives a hint of the valuable color and material for story writing which lies unused in many of our poor farms. It illustrates also what effective vividness may be imparted to official public reports on subjects which have been considered dry routine matter. Miss Hinrichsen writes:

The matron spat heavily on the floor of the women's room.

"I ain't got no time to fix up these people," she declared, "and they don't expect nothin' from me. I'm getting too old to do for paupers." She spat heavily again and another great brown splotch was added to the large accumulation of filth on the floor.

A two-room cabin, propped on rotting sills, its tottering porch, supported by a few rocks, is the home Hardin county provides for its poor. In this hovel live two men and two women. The rooms are filthy. They are vile with the odors of years of disease and uncleanliness.

An old woman, half blind, her limbs so heavy with dropsy that she cannot move, her tongue so numb with paralysis that she can only mutter unintelligibly, sits on a sagging bed; the covers piled around her are so old that their colors have faded to a dull dun and so ragged that they can hold no warmth. The vermin swarm over them. Her clothes are heavy with grease and dirt and they hang in torn bags on the crouching little figure.

Her companion is a feeble-minded woman 50 years old. Her bleared eyes are so crossed that the iris of one is almost hidden in the socket. A few scraggy teeth project over her gaping lips as she tries with uncertain, incoherent words to speak her joy at sight of a new face. Her dress is a bundle of filthy rags. She is the housekeeper for this room. She is the only one to wait on the helpless women and to take care of the quarters. She is the washerwoman for all the inmates.

She has been here 30 years. Four children have been born to her in this place. Two died here, one died in the Lincoln state school and one lives in the country, a worthless loafer.

The walls of the room are cracked from floor to ceiling. The patches of plaster are red with the trails of vermin. The floor is dark with dirt and littered with scraps of old rags, bits of paper and corncobs. The stove is brown with rust. There are no shades at the two small windows. The chairs are broken and their seats are mere scraps of torn cane. There are three ancient wooden beds. Their covers are ragged and dirty. The pillowcases are gingham, once blue, but now brown with age and dirt. Uncovered buckets and dented tin pans are the only toilet equipment.

On the porch outside the room are two battered iron kettles taken by the feeble-minded woman from the playhouse of the superintendent's children. These kettles are the only means the women have of carrying water.

On the walls hang two ornaments—the helpless woman's framed marriage license and a case of locks of hair of every color and texture.

For the care of these persons the county pays the superintendent $10 per month and rents him for $240 a year a 260-acre farm. He was made superintendent because his bid for caring for the poor was the lowest one offered the county commissioners. The land is not very productive and the county officials state that $240 a year is all it is worth.

The superintendent's house is as old and dilapidated as the inmates' cabin. It has two stories and it leans unsteadily forward as if ready to fall to the ground. The walls are as cracked and as marked as those in the cabin. The bricks of the fireplace are falling from their places.

The inmates eat with the family in the kitchen. The kitchen was in disorder, the floor unswept.

The grounds around the house are bare of grass. The barns and outbuildings are good. Some of them are built of logs. They are in fairly good order. Men and women use the same toilet, a disgustingly filthy one at considerable distance from the cabin.

"No, I can't do nothin' for them except cook up their victuals," said the matron. "I used to clean up a little and wait on 'em, but my feet's give out. They ain't got no pride about tryin' to do things for themselves and so things ain't very nice. My husband he don't have no time to wait on 'em. He's a road commissioner, and workin' on the road and tendin' the crops takes all his time. We got the place for five years on each bid. We've had it now 13 years and we're goin' to bid again this fall."

And every few minutes she spat, sometimes on the ground, sometimes on the floor of the room.

The physician who attends the inmates receives $33 per year for his services. An undertaker has a contract with the county to bury each in a $10 coffin.

The county commissioners do not visit the farm. Two of them, it is said, have not been there since their election.

A little girl, taken several years ago to the farm when she was two weeks old, was adopted by the superintendent and his wife. She has been well cared for and attends school regularly. She was well dressed and had the appearance of a happy child. The inmates say they receive good food and kind treatment.

These buildings should be torn down and the material in them burned. The farm is 10 miles from the county seat. It is far from any other house. Only a few times a year does any one come to the place. The farm should be nearer the county seat.

The entire system is vicious and degrading. The indifference of the commissioners is criminal. The inmates of the almshouse cannot be taken care of like human beings until a new farm is purchased, a new home built and an entirely new system of management established.

The citizens of the county say they are ashamed of their almhouse. They say it is a disgrace to the county, that they realize that the inmates live in quarters unfit for the lowest animals, that they have no care in illness, and that drastic action should be taken. But this realization has not roused the public conscience to demand a new almhouse and a new system.

# The Daily Story

### A Choice of Weapons—By F. A. Mitchel.

When General Jackson prepared to receive the British at the battle of New Orleans he depended upon the marksmanship of his army rather than its discipline. Nearly every man of the Americans was a good shot. At that time Kentucky was a newly settled region, and all Kentuckians were hunters, for their principal meat was game. The consequence was when the British marched up in soldierly alignment against these riflemen they were picked off in such numbers that they suffered a terrible defeat.

Zeke Brown was one of these Kentucky hunters who helped to win the battle of New Orleans. Not long after peace was declared between the United States and England Zeke was left a fortune by a relative in New York and concluded to go abroad to see something of the world. Americans were in those days more popular in France than in England, and he went to Paris.

Zeke liked Paris so well that he resolved to stay there indefinitely. But, having too much of the American spirit to remain idle, he concluded to set up a small banking house to satisfy the requirements of his countrymen visiting the city.

Now, at that time there were newspapers in Paris that did not scruple to obtain an income in an illegitimate way—in other words, by blackmail. They would attack some one or his business and wait either for hush money or an advertisement. The Journal of the Nineteenth Century was a newly established paper and was straining every nerve to get a start. This journal published a warning against a certain American banking house, intimating that it was intended to get in deposits, after which its founder would return to his native country.

Zeke was astonished. He consulted a lawyer with regard to suing the paper for libel and learned that it would be useless to try to get judgment against it, for there were no assets on which to levy. He went to the newspaper office, called for the editor and was proceeding to give him an opinion of his rascally proceeding when he was stopped and told that there was one man connected with the paper who heard all such complaints. The editor tapped a bell, and an attendant appeared, who was told to show the caller to the office of M. de Pombeau. On Zeke's entry a gentleman, dressed in the height of fashion, arose to receive him, bowing politely. Zeke told him that he represented a blackmail sheet and if the paper ever attacked his business again he would "break his jaw."

M. de Pombeau, unruffled, resumed the seat he had occupied and whatever he had been doing. When Zeke had finished he left the office.

The same afternoon Zeke received a caller who bore a demand for an apology for his attack on the Journal of the Nineteenth Century or that he would give M. de Pombeau satisfaction.

"Who's M. de Pombeau?" he asked.

"The gentleman you saw this morning. When there is any dissatisfaction with the paper he attends to the matter."

"You mean he's the fighting man?"

"Yes, monsieur."

"And in order to get satisfaction I must fight for it?"

"Yes, monsieur."

"We sometimes fight duels in America. I am not entirely ignorant of the code. As the challenged party I am entitled to the choice of weapons."

"Yes, monsieur."

"Very well. I will send you the terms on which I will meet your principal."

"It is immaterial to M. de Pombeau whether he fights you with the sword or the pistol."

"You mean he knows the tricks of both."

This elicited no reply, and the gentleman departed.

The next day he received by post the following list of ways that Zeke would meet M. de Pombeau, who was welcome to make his choice between them:

First.—The parties to fight "over a handkerchief," a form sometimes, but rarely, used in America wherein the disputants are separated by their seconds holding a handkerchief between them. It was certain death for both.

Second.—Bowie knives in a room perfectly darkened.

Third.—Rifles at 800 yards.

Fourth.—The parties to swim from opposite sides of the Seine toward each other, holding a pistol in the right hand above water and begin firing at will.

Fifth.—Crowbars within a chalked ring ten feet in diameter.

Sixth.—Each disputant to eat a sausage, one of the sausages to be poisoned. Two sausages were to be put in a covered dish, a ribbon to be attached to each and the disputants to draw them by the ribbons.

When monsieur received this list of methods of obtaining satisfaction from the American he was much disturbed. Indeed, he was shocked. He instructed his second to protest against any such barbarous methods of fighting and begged his antagonist to remember that France was not America. He would meet him in a civilized way, and only in a civilized way.

To this Zeke made no reply, believing that it was not only the end of the affair of the duel, but quite likely the end of the blackmail process. In this he was right. He heard nothing more from M. de Pombeau, and he was not again attacked in the Journal of the Nineteenth Century.

# HEALTH TALKS

BY WILLIAM BRADY, M.D.

### Felon and Futility of Poultices.

Our old friends, grandma and the old women of the other sex, have been enjoying quite a long vacation. It is time to call them back to arms.

Felon is not just a curse wished on you. It is an infection of the periosteum or covering membrane of bone with the ordinary pusproducing germs that enter through some trifling scratch or abrasion of the skin. The extreme pain of a felon is due to the unyielding, dense toughness of the membrane which prevents the few drops of pus from finding vent. It is comparable to the condition known vagely as "ulcerated tooth."

Disaster is the certain result of procrastinating with poultices, either the best of poultices—grandma's flaxseed meal poultices, or the worst, the high priced canned mud that you apply hot and thick till you grow delirious. And as for salves, antiseptics and "drawing" applications, they are used only at the risk of losing the finger or life itself, no matter if all the old women in America recommend them.

The intense, throbbing, unbearable pain of felon, as well as the danger of gangrene or necrosis of bone, is relieved promptly by surgical incision, and the earlier this is done the less damage will be done by the felon. Anybody who exhibits a badly scarred or deformed finger which he attributes to a felon is mistaken; the deformity and scar formation are really due to procrastination, timidity, maltreatment or self-restraint, which amounts to the same thing when surgical conditions are concerned.

What does surgical incision mean? Lancing? No. Lancing passed out away back in the antiseptic era. This is the aseptic era, the age of intelligence, and efficiency. We don't lance felons any more. We cut down freely, painstakingly, carefully, under an anesthetic, of course, and see exactly what we are doing. No blind stabs. No torture. No half-success. No second and third atttmpts. If the felon is freely and immediately incised under ether or chloroform or gas or other general anesthetic, that is the end of it. Provided, of course, you have not postponed or sidestepped the operation and allowed the felon to progress to a serious stage. After such incision, draining the pus, pain diseappears completely, and healing is at once begun. A week is plenty long enough for any sensible individual to devote to nursing such a foolish illness as felon.

Old women (of both sexes) prefer to suffer agonies of pain while fussing with dirty poultices and the like, and hence these misguided folk can exhibit some horrible results.

Just as extraction can never be done too early in the case of an "ulcerated tooth" (alveolar abscess), so surgical incision can never be done too early in a case of felon. And just as unwarranted delay, due to timidity or misinformation leads to unpleasant results and recriminations in the neglected case of "ulcerated tooth," so procrastination leads to many an unjust charge against the physician whose eagerness to 'carve" is misjudged by the uneducated patient.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**Dobell's versus Normal Salt.**

Question—Dobell's solution contains carbolic acid. Is it harmful to use such a wash several times daily to clean an abscess?

Answer—Not always, but normal salt solution (teaspoonful or tablespoonful of salt in pint of water) will do all that Dobell's or any other antiseptic can do.

**Sentence Suspended On Guilty Baby.**

Question—Our baby had a small navel hernia, but at two months old the doctor declares he is cured? How long should he wear the binder

Answer—Not another day, if he is a wise baby.

### First Conscription Measure.

Wellington, N. Z.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—The first conscription measure in the British overseas dominions was virtually placed on the statute book on June 10, when the military service bill passed its third reading in the house of representatives with only four votes in opposition. Though the bill has to pass the upper house, it is considered as good as passed. During the debates the government described the bill as one providing for compulsory service when voluntary enlistment failed, that is, the voluntary system will continue but it will be backed up by a scheme of compulsory service, thereby insuring the number of reinforcements the country is required to send away every four weeks. The minister for defense, Colonel J. Allen, pointed out that under the new bill no class of men was exempt, because that had proved to be a mistake in England. The few laborites in the house opposed the bill. One of them, P. Webb, declared that since New Zealand had provided 60,000 men out of her population of a million, it was an insult to the country to say that the voluntary system had failed. In England New Zealand was being held up as a recruiting example to the rest of the empire, and in proportion to the population New Zealand led Australia ,South Africa and Canada in the number of men furnished.

## Daily History Class—July 31.

1777—Lafayette began active service in the American Revolutionary army.

1890—Political outbreak in Buenos Aires; 1,000 killed and 5,000 wounded.

1915—Dr. W. A. Croffut, journalist, traveler and author, died in Washington; born 1835. British ship Iberian submarined while attempting to escape; two Americans killed. Sixty-four British and two allied merchant ships lost in the war zone during July, with sixty-